

Message Text

SECRET

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FM USINT DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 574

S E C R E T DAMASCUS 1050

EXDIS

FOR UNDER SECRETARY SISCO FROM SCOTES

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, SY

SUBJECT: DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS

REF: STATE116989

1. BY NOW YOU HAVE SEEN OUR 1043 DESCRIBING FOREIGN MINISTER KHADDAM'S JUNE 4 PRESS CONF. THIS MORNINGS (JUNE 5) LOCAL NEWSPAPERS WHICH CARRY THE FOREIGN MINISTERS COMMENTS IN DETAIL, ALSO MAKE NO MENTION OF ANY RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS BUT SIMPLY THAT KHADDAM IN RESPONSE TO A QUESTION ON THE SUBJECT SAID "THE MATTER OF THE RESUMPTION OF US-SYRIAN RELATIONS HAS BEEN DISCUSSED AND RESUMPTION OF US SYRIAN RELATIONS WILL TAKE PLACE". YOU WILL NOTE THAT IN THE PRESS VERSION NOT EVEN THE WORD "SHORTLY" APPEARS AS IT REPORTEDLY DID DURING THE FOREIGN MINISTER'S ACTUAL PRESENTATION. PRESIDENTIAL PRESS ADVISER ELIAS ALSO CONFIRMED TODAY TO ME THAT KHADDAM WAS "MISQUOTED"

2. IN VIEW OF THIS DO YOU STILL WANT ME TO CARRY OUT YOUR INSTRUCTIONS IN PARA 2 REFTTEL THAT I "ASCERTAIN" WHAT IS ON SYRIAN MINDS CONCERNING PROMPT AND OFFICIAL STATEMENT REGARDING RESUMPTION OF RELATIONS NOW OR WAITING FOR THIS ANNOUNCEMENT TO BE MADE DURING THE PRESIDENT'S VISIT?

SCOTES

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